Approved For Release 2004/12/01 : CIA-RDP80M01066A001100080004-0 DD/075 22 90 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Executive Registry

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Dear David,

I was pleased to see, from your letter of April 17, that you and your father are as deeply concerned as ever about the future of South Vietnam. No doubt you have been following the news of the most recent events in Saigon, i.e., the change in government and the renewed interest in negotiations with the other side. I am sure you will agree that because of your father's reputation and past political activities, he may be consulted by the new leaders in Saigon. In the meantime, they deserve the patient support of all friends of Vietnam in the hope a peaceful resolution of this long war can be negotiated.

Recent events, both political and military, have occurred with great swiftness, but we remain confident that our able colleagues in the State Department and in Saigon are keeping well-informed and planning for all contingencies.

Recalling the large number of votes obtained by your father in the 1967 election, I am confident he looks forward to returning to the political arena in any possible future elections in South Vietnam. I would be interested in hearing of any overtures made to your father by the new Administration in Saigon, or of any concrete contacts by representatives from the other side.

Sincerely,

W. E. Colby Director

Signature Recommended: 2 3 APR 1975 Nelson, DDO

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Dear Bill,

Our offer still stands. My father can help the US withdraw in an orderly manner and still maintain the necessary basis for a long-term relationship with the US. What is needed to convince Henry? What about talking to Henry about our offer? As you remember, D. defended the head of the other side in the 50's before Saigon's court. We can pull the settlement in negotiations with them, we get along with Congress here, and with most people except Henry.

I'll be thankful if you can talk to him again. Our solution might spare quite a few American lives. I'll be calling you. Hello to Barbara and the children.

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Best,

David D.

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